

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3598

INFO AMCONSUL HONGKONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL CH

SUBJECT: US-PRC CULTURAL EXCHANGES

REF: A. STATE 83828; B. STATE 87446

1. WORLD AFFAIRS GROUP - PASCOE CALLED ON U.S. AFFAIRS OFFICE DEPTUY DIRECTOR CHAO CHI-HUA MORNING OF APRIL 18 TO CONVEY URGENT NEED FOR CHINESE RESPONSE TO THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE'S SUGGESTED DATE OF MID-JUNE FOR VISIT OF WORLD AFFAIRS ORGANIZATIONS DELEGATION. HE EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO GROUP, EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT OVER LONG DELAY ON THIS VISIT, AND TOLD CHAO THE NC NEEDS CHINESE RESPONSE IN A DAY OR TWO OR THE VISIT WILL HAVE TO BE DELAYED ONCE AGAIN. CHAO NOTED THE ISSUE OF PARTICIPANTS AND ASKED ABOUT THE PLANNED MAKEUP OF DELEGATION. WE RESPONDED WITH RELEVANT PORTIONS OF ROSEN LETTER OF MARCH 7 (STATE 53544). CHAO APPEARED TO BELIEVE THE MATTER COULD BE SETTLED AND HE PROMISED TO CHECK WITH THE CHINESE HOST ORGANIZATION THIS MORNING ON THE MID-JUNE DATE. HE THEN SAID THE MFA WOULD TELEGRAPH ITS REPLY TO PRCLO FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

2. TRACK AND FIELD TEAM. PASCOE INFORMED MFA HE WOULD
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BE TRAVELLING WITH THE TRACK AND FIELD TEAM AND WOULD

ACCOMPANY IT INTO THE COUNTRY FROM HONG KONG. HE ALSO
RELAYED INFORMATION ON DE JEIJER'S PLANS TO VISIT THE CANTON
FAIR AND RE-ENTER WITH THE TEAM. CHAO INDICATED CHINESE
WOULD TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THERE WAS NO SLIPUP ON
DE KEIJZER'S RE-ENTRY.

3. COMMENT: WE RECOMMEND THAT THE NC ATTEMPT TO HOLD THE
WORLD AFFAIRS ORGANIZATION DELEGATION TOGETHER A FEW MORE
DAYS TO GIVE THE CHINESE TIME TO REPLY. CHAO SEEMED
SINCERELY INTERESTED IN TRYING TO SETTLE THIS LONG-STANDING
PROBLEM AND WE BELIEVE HE SHOULD BE GIVEN A FEW DAYS TO
TRY. HOLDRIDGE

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